Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising:

applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color, wherein said base color coating is applied by coating said optical fiber core section in a die and passing said coated optical fiber core section through an exit portion of said die having a longitudinal channel for controlling said diameter of said colored optical fiber;

applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said base color coating before said base color coating is fully cured, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color, and wherein said stripe is formed in said base color coating such that a diameter of said optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and

curing said base color coating and said stripe.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein applying said stripe includes injecting said second curable material through an aperture in a side wall of said die.

Claim 4 (original): The method of claim 1 further comprising partially curing said base color coating before applying said stripe.

Claim 5 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein applying said stripe includes injecting said second curable material against said base color coating using a nozzle.

Claim 6 (original): The method of claim 5 further comprising partially curing said base color coating before applying said stripe using said nozzle.

Claim 7 (original): The method of claim 6 further comprising passing said optical fiber core section having said base color coating and said stripe through another die to maintain a substantially uniform diameter.

Claim 8 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein curing said base color coating and said stripe includes passing said base color coating and said stripe through a full cure station.

Claim 9 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein applying said at least one stripe includes applying a plurality of stripes.

Claim 10 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said first curable material and said second curable material are UV-curable materials.

Claim 11 (original): The method of claim 1 wherein said first curable material and said second curable material are different types of material.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising:

~~applying a base color coating of a first curable material to~~ coating an optical fiber core section with a base color coating of a first curable material to form a coated optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color;

passing said coated optical fiber core section into a die;

~~applying at least one stripe of~~ injecting a second curable material through an aperture in a side wall of said die to apply at least one stripe to said coated optical fiber core section, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color;

controlling a thickness of said base color coating and said stripe by passing said coated optical fiber core section through a longitudinal channel of said die such that a diameter of said colored optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and

curing said base color coating and said stripe.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~13~~ 12 wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes curing said base color coating and said stripe simultaneously in a cure station.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising:

applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section to form a coated optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color;

applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said coated optical fiber core section, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color;

controlling a thickness of said base color coating and said stripe such that a diameter of said colored optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and

curing said base color coating and said stripe, ~~The method of claim 12~~ wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes:

partially curing said base color coating before applying said stripe; and

fully curing said base color coating and said stripe after applying said stripe.

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 15 wherein the steps of applying and controlling the thickness of said base color coating include:

coating said optical fiber core section; and

passing said coated optical fiber core section through a first die.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 16 wherein the step of applying said stripe includes injecting said second curable material against said base color coating using a nozzle.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the step of controlling the thickness of said base color coating and said stripe includes passing said colored optical fiber through a second die before the step of fully curing said base color coating and said stripe.

Claim 19 (currently amended): A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method comprising: ~~The method of claim 12 wherein the steps of applying and controlling the thickness of said base color coating and said stripe include:~~

applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section to form a coated optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color, wherein ~~applying~~ said base color coating is applied using a first die;

passing said coated optical fiber core section through said first die to provide a gap in said base color coating;

applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said coated optical fiber core section, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color, wherein ~~applying~~ said stripe is applied to said gap in said base color coating using a second die; ~~and~~

passing said coated optical fiber core section through said second die, wherein said first die and said second die control a thickness of said base color coating and said stripe such that a diameter of said colored optical fiber remains substantially uniform; and ~~to maintain said substantially uniform diameter~~

curing said base color coating and said stripe.

Claim 20 (original): The method of claim 19 wherein the step of curing said base color coating and said stripe includes first curing said base color coating after passing said coated optical fiber core section through said first die and then curing said stripe after passing said coated optical fiber core section through said second die.

Claims 21-28 (Canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended) A method of coloring an optical fiber, said method ~~The method of claim 1 further~~ comprising:

applying a base color coating of a first curable material to an optical fiber core section, said base color coating having a base color;

receiving said optical fiber core section coated with said base color coating in a main portion of a coloring die;

passing said optical fiber core section coated with said base color coating through an exit portion of said coloring die extending from said main portion, said exit portion defining a substantially straight longitudinal passageway having a substantially uniform diameter, for maintaining said optical fiber at a substantially uniform diameter; and

applying at least one stripe of a second curable material to said base color coating before said base color coating is fully cured, said stripe having a stripe color different from said base color, wherein ~~applying~~ said at least one stripe ~~includes~~ is applied by injecting said stripe through a side aperture in said exit portion using at least one striping tube coupled to said exit portion, whereby said stripe is formed in said base color coating such that a diameter of said optical fiber remains substantially uniform ~~is applied to said base color coating and maintained at said substantially uniform diameter~~; and

curing said base color coating and said stripe.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The method of claim 29 further comprising:

injecting a plurality of stripes through a plurality of side apertures in said exit portion using a plurality striping tubes coupled to said exit portion.